

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-05 /082 W

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P R 090940Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3292

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 0428

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER ELABORATES ON THE EXTERNAL THREAT

REF: NEW DELHI 349 (NOTAL)

1. IN A 40 MINUTE MONOLOGUE WITH DUTCH MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT PRONK AND THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR TO NEW DELHI, MRS. GANDHI ELABORATED ON THE THREAT TO INDIA FROM ABROAD. NEITHER THE AMBASSADOR NOR THE MINISTER HAD ANY REAL OPPORTUNITY TO DO MORE THAN MAKE BRIEF REJOINDERS IN THE COURSE OF THE CALL WHICH TOOK PLACE ON JANUARY 7. THE DUTCH EMBASSY CHARACTERIZES MRS. GANDHI'S PERFORMANCE AS THE STREAM OF CONCIOUSNESS TECHNIQUE. THE FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT EXCERPTS FROM THE DUTCH REPORTING
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CABLE. MRS. GANDHI IS THE SPEAKER:

2. INDIA IS THREATENED FROM ABROAD. ITS NEIGHBORS ARE ARMING THEMSELVES. BY DOING SO THEY RAISE THE QUESTION OF AGAINST WHOM THEY INTEND TO USE THESE ARMAMENTS. IN THE PAST WEAPONS SUPPLIED TO PAKISTAN BY THE US WERE USED AGAINST INDIA, IN SPITE OF THE ASSURANCES PRESIDENT EISENHOWER GAVE TO THE CONTRARY. THE ACQUISITION OF ARMS TODAY IS ON A MUCH LARGER SCALE AND THIS IS NOT ONLY TRUE IN THE CASE OF PAKISTAN.

3. IT IS STRANGE THAT PRESIDENT FORD ON HIS WAY TO CHINA CRITICIZED DEMOCRACY IN INDIA. PRESIDENT FORD APPLIES DIFFERENT STANDARDS, AND WE RESENT THAT. INDIA DOES NOT LIKE THE POLICY THAT SEVERAL COUNTRIES FOLLOW TOWARD THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA. "EVERYONE IS CHARMED WHEN MAO SMILES." THERE ARE STRANGE IDEAS CURRENT IN THE PRC, ARISING OUT OF THE ISOLATION OF CHINA. THE PRC IS PREPARING ITSELF RAPIDLY FOR A THIRD WORLD WAR. THE CHINESE SAY THIS THEMSELVES AND MAO BELIEVES THE CONFLICT UNAVOIDABLE. IN THAT EVENT EUROPE WILL BE OVERRUN BY THE RUSSIANS AS THE CONTINENT WAS IN WORLD WAR 2 BY THE GERMANS.

4. INDIA'S FRONTIERS ARE NOT SECURE. CONSEQUENTLY IT IS NECESSARY FOR ME TO OPEN EYES AND EARS. CHINA IS TRYING TO EMPLOY ITS INFLUENCE IN THE SMALLER COUNTRIES SURROUNDING INDIA, PARTICULARLY IN SRI LANKA. NEITHER THE PROBLEM OF THE TAMILS NOR THE SOVEREIGNTY OF KACHHATIVU HAS BEEN SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED. PERSONALLY I BELIEVE IT IS STUPID TO ARGUE ABOUT AN ISLAND THAT HAS SIGNIFICANCE ONLY TO INDIA FISHERMEN AND SO I DID NOT HESITATE TO TRANSFER SOVEREIGNTY TO SRI LANKA WITH THE CONDITION THAT INDIAN FISHERMEN WOULD CONTINUE TO USE THE ISLAND. THE JANA SANGH AND THE SOCIALISTS PROTESTED BUT I BELIEVE A BIG COUNTRY SOMETIMES MUST GIVE MORE THAN IT RECEIVES. WE HAVE ALSO APPLIED THIS APPROACH WITH REGARD TO SOME OF THE ENCLAVES ON THE BORDER WITH BANGLADESH. RECENT CHINESE PRESURE ON BUTHAN ALSO CAUSES US CONCERN.

5. INDIA IS SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (CIEC). NONE OF THE MAJOR POWERS REPRESENTED AT THE PARIS MEETING SIDED WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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INDIA DURING THE BANGLADESH CONFLICT. NONE OF THEM HAVE HESITATED TO SUPPORT DICTATORIAL REGIMES.

6. PRONK'S COMMENT: THE DUTCH MINISTER FOUND MRS. GANDHI CANTU. HE CAME AWAY CONVINCED THAT IN MRS. GANDHI'S MIND THE PRINCIPAL EXTERNAL THREAT TO INDIA IS FROM CHINA. SHE PERSONALLY WAS NOT THAT EXPLICIT (SEE PARA 3 REFTTEL).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, THREATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE00428
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760008-0351
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760171/aaaackd.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 NEW DELHI 349
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER ELABORATES ON THE EXTERNAL THREAT
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, IN, US, NL, CH, PK, (GANDHI, INDIRA), (PRONK, JAN P)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006